Renegotiating the wheat import agreement with US

1407. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to renegotiate the wheat import agreement with the US;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a step is likely to increase the price of imported wheat in view of firming up of global wheat prices; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Safe stock for food security

†1408. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to create safe stocks to ensure food safety in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that recently Government decision to increase quantity of sugar in its buffer stock was in view of protection of sugar industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total additional amount requirement of Government due to above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Food stocks are maintained by the Central Government to meet the prescribed minimum buffer stock norms for food security in the country.

The existing buffer stock norms applicable for foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) are as given below:—

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(in lakh tonnes)

	Wheat	Rice	Total
1st April	40	122	162
1st July	171	98	269
1st October	110	52	162
1st January	82	118	200

(c) to (e) The prices of non-levy (free sale) sugar in the open market have declined in the current sugar season due to excess production of sugar both within the country and in the world. The decline in sugar prices has adversely affected capacities of the sugar factories to pay cane price to sugarcane farmers. To mitigate the difficulties of the sugarcane farmers, the Government has decided to create additional buffer stock of 30 lakh tonnes for a period of one year from 01.08.2007 to 31.07.2008, over and above the earlier buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes. The buffer subsidy required for this additional buffer stock is estimated at about Rs. 567 crore, over and above the subsidy of Rs. 378 crore for the initial buffer stock.

Distribution of foodgrains under PDS

1409. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of foodgrains such as wheat, sugar, rice, etc., required to be distributed to the poor people below poverty line under public distribution system during the year 2007-08, State-wise/district-wise/panchayat-wise; and

(b) the details of all the poor people benefited under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise/district-wise/panchayat-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Allocations of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under the Targeted Public Distribution System for BPL families, including AAY are made @ 35 kgs. per family on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on the population porjection of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 or the number of ration cards issued by the State Government, whichever is less. State-wise details of the Below Poverty Line (including AAY) families are at Statement-I *(See* below) and the details of the allocations made for these beneficiaries for the last three years are at Statement-II and III *(See* below). Under TPDS the operational responsibility for distributing the foodgrains to eligible families lies with the State/ UT Governments.

The supply of levy sugar has been restricted to BPL families for distribution under Public Distribution System in all the States/UTs, excepting North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories, where universal PDS is allowed with effect from 01.02.2001. Statement-IV on allocations of sugar made during the last three years is enclosed.